

EQC Regional Offices

The local Environmental Quality Control (EQC) Office performs compliance inspections and can provide technical assistance. Check the numbers below for the office in your area.

- Aiken Office..... (803) 641-7670**
Aiken, Orangeburg, Barnwell, Bamberg, Allendale, Calhoun
- Anderson Office..... (864) 260-5569**
Anderson, Oconee
- Beaufort Office..... (843) 846-1030**
Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Hampton
- Charleston Office..... (843) 953-0150**
Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester
- Columbia Office..... (803) 896-0620**
Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield
- Florence Office.....(803) 661-4825**
Florence, Dillon, Marion, Marlboro, Darlington, Chesterfield
- Greenville Office..... (864) 241-1090**
Greenville, Pickens
- Greenwood Office..... (803) 223-0333**
Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens, Saluda, Edgefield, McCormick

- Lancaster Office..... (803) 285-7461**
Lancaster, Chester, York
- Myrtle Beach Office..... (843) 238-4378**
Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg
- Spartanburg Office..... (864) 596-3800**
Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union
- Sumter Office..... (803) 596-3800**
Sumter, Kershaw, Lee, Clarendon

DHEC Central Office Contact Numbers

- Main Telephone Number (803) 898-4300**
- Main Fax Number (803) 898-3795**

For questions concerning construction permits and change orders, call Shawn Clarke (803) 898-3544

For questions concerning program policies and compliance issues, call Jim Ridge (803) 898-4015

For questions concerning operating permit fees and address changes, call Marquisha Williams (803) 898-3540

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NEWSPLASH

A Publication of the SC DHEC Bureau of Water Winter 2008

Implementation Dates for R.61-51, Public Swimming Pools

R.61-51 was enacted to protect public health and safety when recreating in public swimming pools. R.6-51, Public Swimming Pools, is currently undergoing revisions. Amendments to the regulation will help clarify and enhance existing requirements. Key R.61-51 implementation dates are as follows:

25 JUL 2008	Notice of Drafting for the proposed amendments was published in the State Register
14 AUG 2008	Stakeholder meeting held in Conway
19 AUG 2008	Stakeholder meeting held in Walterboro
20 AUG 2008	Stakeholder meeting held in Columbia
21 AUG 2008	Stakeholder meeting held in Greenville
09 OCT 2008	Board meeting on proposed amendments of Regulation 61-51, Public Swimming Pool Regulations – (Board granted approval)
24 NOV 2008	Staff informational forum and public comment period held at DHEC’s Bureau of Water, 2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201 4p.m., Peebles Auditorium
08 JAN 2009	Second Board meeting, public hearing and opportunity for public comment held at DHEC’s Bureau of Water, 2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201 10 a.m., Commissioner’s Board Room

Contact Jim Ridge (803) 898-4015 or Wanda Comfort (803) 898-3926 for a copy of the proposed regulation changes for R.61-51. Proposed revisions will be listed in the Spring/Summer 2009 edition of NEWSPASH.

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act

- On December 19, 2007, the President signed into law the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. The Act was named for Graeme Baker who died in a tragic incident in June 2002 after the suction from a spa drain entrapped her underwater. The purpose of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act is to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by requiring the use of proper devices such as anti-entrapment drain covers and fences/barriers.
- All year-round public pools and spas must be in compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act by December 19, 2008. Public pools and spas that are not in operation on December 19, 2008 need not meet the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act until they return to operation.

PUBLIC NOTICE for public pool owners and others in the pool industry November 2008
Changes in federal law & overview of DHEC’s role in changing your pool

Overview:

In December 2007, the federal government passed the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act of 2007 (Graeme Baker Act). This act requires that all public swimming pools and spas throughout the U.S. replace their existing main drain covers with new main drain covers that comply with ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 2007.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has the responsibility of enforcing this new law. Federal law specifies fines for non-compliance. Note that main drain covers that are not in compliance may not be sold, manufactured, distributed or imported after the Dec. 19, 2008 deadline. All pools that are in operation on or after Dec. 19, 2008 must be in compliance, and all pools that are closed for the season must be in compliance before they open for the 2009 swimming season.

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http://www.scdhec.gov/water/html/recreation.html

SC DHEC Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Requirement #1: Suction outlets

1. Main drain cover size: Our understanding of the Graeme Baker Act and the (CPSC) guidance means that public pools in S.C. must replace their main drain covers. These main drain covers must be appropriately sized for the flow rate of the existing pumps, when one main drain is out of service.
2. Skimmer equalizer lines: Those are also considered to be submerged suction outlets. There are two options to comply with the Graeme Baker Act. You can:
 - a. install an approved grate over each equalizer line suction outlet in the pool, or
 - b. disable the equalizer line. The equalizer line can be disabled by installing a plug with PVC solvent cement in the equalizer line port (located in the body of the skimmer, below the skimmer basket).
3. DHEC's requirement: In contrast to the way pool modifications are typically handled, DHEC requests that the owner(s) or contractor(s) submit the enclosed Change Order Request (COR) form **after** the main drain grates have been replaced and the skimmers have been modified. DHEC is not requiring prior approval in order that the process for gaining compliance with the Graeme Baker Act can be expedited. The completed COR will provide DHEC with confirmation as to which main drain covers were installed, and that the pool is in compliance with the Graeme Baker Act.

Main drain exceptions:

The only main drain covers that are not required to be replaced are those on kiddie spray decks that are not submerged. Also, extremely large grates (2' x 5' and larger) are under review by the CPSC and a final announcement of their decision will come later.

(Per conversation with Scott Wolfson, CPSC)

Requirement #2: Main drain spacing

1. Spacing: If your pool was permitted and constructed prior to 2003, and the main drains are spaced less than three (3) feet apart on center, in addition to replacing the main drain covers, you must select one of the following choices to resolve any potential for main drain entrapment caused by the proximity of the existing main drain installation:
 - Modify the shell of the pool to allow for the main drains to be modified and spaced such that they are at least three (3) feet apart on center.
 - Installation of a safety vacuum release system that ceases operation of the pump, reverses the circulation flow or otherwise provides a vacuum release at a suction outlet when a blockage is detected, and which has been tested by an independent third party and found to conform to ASME/ANSI standard A112.19.17 or ASTM standard F2387.
 - Installation of a suction-limiting vent system with a tamper-resistant atmospheric opening.
 - Installation of a gravity drainage system that utilizes a collector tank.
 - Installation of an automatic pump shut-off system.
2. DHEC's requirement: A COR must be submitted to DHEC and approved prior to the installation of one of the above items. Note that "drain disablement" is listed in federal law as an alternative, but is not allowed in South Carolina.

More information:

For more information about the recreational waters program, visit our Web site:
<http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/recreation.htm>

For the CPSC interpretation of the Graeme Baker Act:
<http://www.cpsc.gov/phth/vgpsa.pdf>

For the Graeme Baker Act:
<http://www.cpsc.gov/pssa.pdf>

For DHEC's pool permitting program:
Shawn M. Clarke, P.E., Manager
Phone – 803-898-3544
E-mail – clarkesm@dhec.sc.gov
Water Supply and Recreational Water
Permitting Section
Bureau of Water, SCDHEC
2600 Bull St.
Columbia, S.C. 29201

You asked: we answered...

Commonly Asked Questions Regarding Public Swimming Pools

By Wanda Comfort, Environmental Health Manager

Due to Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) no longer administering the South Carolina certified pool technician (SC CPT) exam, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has selected Applied Measurement Professional to administer the old LLR exam. The transition generated many questions from public pool owners, pool technicians, suppliers and concerned citizens during the 2008 pool season. Below you will find several questions about South Carolina certified pool technicians that were addressed to DHEC staff this season:

Q. Can you give me some information on how I can become a South Carolina certified pool technician? Who teaches the classes? How can I get in contact with them?

A. The Recreational Water's Web site www.scdhec.net is a great tool that will assist you with the following: Click on the Environment tab. Click on Bureau of Water. Click South Carolina certified pool technician (S.C. CPT) Classes. Here you will find a variety of options that will help you reach your goal of becoming a licensed pool technician. Contact us is a great link to get you in touch with the instructor by email.

Q. How do I register for the S.C. CPT exam?

A. Should you wish to register for the S.C. CPT exam, please contact Applied Measurement Professionals at 1-800-345-6559 or contact them through their Web site: www.goAMP.com.

Q. How much is the SC CPT exam?

A. The S.C. CPT exam is \$95; there is not a registration fee.

Q. Do I need to take a S.C. CPT Course before taking the S.C. CPT exam?

A. The S.C. CPT Course is not a requirement; however, it is strongly recommended depending on your knowledge before taking the S.C. CPT exam. Please evaluate and determine your experience working with pools (e.g. filtration systems, record keeping, facility safety, chemical testing, disinfection, pool water contamination, essential calculations, etc.).

Q. What is considered a passing score for the S.C. CPT exam?

A. There are 90 questions on the exam. You must correctly answer 63 out of 90 questions to pass with 70 percent.

Q. If I lost my South Carolina certified pool technician certification card, can I get it replaced?

A. Upon request from a candidate, Applied Measurement Professional (AMP) will issue a duplicate certificate for a fee of \$25 by check or money order. It is suggested that the candidate sends a request in writing, along with payment, to: AMP ES Dept, 18000 W. 105th St., Olathe, KS 66061.

Q. How can I become a licensed pool instructor?

A. Instructor training can be located through the National Swimming Pool Foundation Web site. Log on to www.nspf.org; Click Educational Programs. In the drop-down menu, click NSPF Instructor Schools. In addition to the prerequisites, you will see courses for 2008 (i.e. Dec. 8-10 Toronto, ON Canada) and 2009 (i.e. Jan. 24-26 Atlantic City, N.J.; Feb. 25-27 San Jose, Costa Rica and Apr. 8-20 Sacramento, California).



www.scdhec.gov

*We promote and protect the health of the public
and the environment.*

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